



New Road Chippenham, 1930

## Chippenham Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at  
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

Many may be read on Flickr in Albums headed '*Cambs News*'

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/153171359@N04/albums>

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library  
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the  
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

1897 03 26

P.C. Booty of the Cambs Police has been compelled to retire from the force owing to weak health, a misfortune which is made heavier by the fact that he was within two months of being entitled to a pension. He has been stationed in the Newmarket district some years, formerly at Chippenham and then at Newmarket. In both places he has taken a great interest in gardening matters. He leaves to enter upon occupation of the Fountain Hotel, Cambridge

1898 11 04

Chippenham train accident, p3

1898 12 22

A serious fire occurred at Chippenham. Details now to hand show that the Newmarket Jockey Club Owners and Trainers Fire Brigade have had an experience such as is seldom met with, having been on duty upwards of 18 hours, engaged in fighting a fire which at one time seemed likely to defy all efforts to get it in hand. Fordham Volunteer Fire Brigade was also sent for. It had been feared that the church would be endangered and Rev Mr Wickham climbed to the roof and poured water on the handsome stained glass memorial windows.

1899 01 24

One of the largest fires which have occurred in Chippenham broke out on Monday night. It appears that captain Howlett was in the village on fire brigade business connected with the previous fire, when a boy dashed in shouting that the barn at the rear of the Tharp Arms public house was on fire. He lost no time in wiring for as the Newmarket and Fulbourn Fire Brigade. Twenty villagers mounted the roof of a long range of thatched cottages in Church Lane and passed buckets from man to man in order to prevent the flames which were now licking the cottages. By sheer hard work the fire was held in check until the brigade arrived. They pulled down all places or goods in the vicinity which seemed likely to ignite and were able to confine the outbreak to something like reasonable proportions. Without the army of helpers the whole of the village lying to windward of the outbreak would probably have been involved

1899 02 13

Chippenham fire, p2-3

1899 02 14

Chippenham fire, p3 \*

1899 02 16

"On Saturday last during the height of a great gale some farm buildings in Chippenham were found to be on fire and in an incredible short space of time six cottages were ablaze. So rapid was the spread of the flames that the unfortunate inmates had only bare time to snatch unfortunate children from their beds. When they escaped they found themselves cut off from the rest of the village and several women were afterwards found almost naked huddled behind a haystack and had to be taken over ploughed fields to a place of shelter"- James Wickham, (vicar)

1899 02 22

Chippenham fire theft, p3

1899 03 01

Chippenham fire trial, p3

1899 03 06

Chippenham fire letters, p2

## **1900**

1900 04 04

The following appointments of parish constables were made: Burwell, H. Martin; Brinkley, F. Geo. Howard; Cheveley, J. Nicholls; Chippenham, A. Duffield; Dullingham, J. Smith; Fordham G.R. Godfrey; Isleham, J. Dilley; Soham H. Rouse; Wicken, W. Barton; Wood Ditton J.J. Howe & C. Cates.

1904 02 13

The Cambridgeshire Public House Trust Association was registered in 1903 and has taken over the Tharp Arms Inn at Chippenham, the Duncombe Arms at Waresley with the George Inn, Babraham soon to follow. The movement was a commercial undertaking with a philanthropic end. They wanted to raise the tone of the public house and promote temperance. The managers obtain no benefit from the sale of alcoholic liquors but make a profit on non-intoxicants; hot soup is supplied and villagers seem to appreciate the change as more and more public houses are ready to supply non-alcoholic refreshments.

1904 10 31

King at Chippenham, p3

1906 02 09

The extraordinary weather was experienced in all its bewildering variety. Thunder, lightning, hail, snow and a hurricane provided a new experience. Many pedestrians were blown over by the wind which swept over the mill at Chippenham with such suddenness that before the sails could be adjusted, the top of the mill was blown off. The storm travelled at a remarkable pace. It took less than an hour to travel from Leicester to Cambridge. 06 02 09c

1906 10 15

The King had an excellent day's sport on the famous partridge grounds at Chippenham Park, which Sir Ernest Cassel has leased. Birds were numerous and strong on the wing. His Majesty rode on his pony from point to point and displayed his usual precision of aim. The bag included 669 partridges, 88 pheasants and 82 hares.

## **1910**

1911 02 24

The Cambridgeshire Public House Trust Association says that inns that are well conducted have to bear a much heavier burden of taxation than pubs which merely serve alcoholic liquors. To add refreshment rooms or bedrooms to existing houses is now impossible but improvements have been made to the Hardwicke Arms at Arrington and the Bell Inn, Kennett. Others including the Tharp Arms, Chippenham, George and Dragon Snailwell and the Spread Eagle at Croxton have been maintained in good condition though profits are down again 11 02 24

1913 02 07 p11

Chippenham roadman death

## **1920**

1920 01 07 CIP

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631), Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186), Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236), Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422), Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn

(442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1922 08 31

Newmarket Rural Council considered a report on the epidemic of fever at Chippenham during which five people have died. Dr Gellatly wrote: "As to sanitary defects, the worst is the cottages in New-row where a large number of cases have occurred, the absence of ventilation rendering them practically "back to back" dwellings. The people will not keep out of each other's homes and in many cases do all they can to conceal the facts in regard to suspected cases. It is true that very many defects of sanitation exist in Chippenham, but in no case can it be said that the health of the inhabitants has been directly affected by these defects"

1927 09 10

WWI Chippenham, p8\*,

### **1930**

1932 08 12

The greatest Guide camp Cambridgeshire has ever known is taking place in Chippenham Park to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the movement. As I motored round the camp we saw on all sides healthy, merry, laughing girls, filled with the zest that only life in the glorious open can give. A clump of huge beeches is the site of a huge camp fire where every one of the 600 Guiders gather round the blazing logs to sing and yarn, the night sky overhead and the smell of wood smoke in their nostrils. Then are friendships made. 32 08 12f & g

1934 03 29

Col Tharp, Chippenham death, p7\*

1939 12 06

Mrs Tharp has offered to lend part of her house at Chippenham Park for three months for the purpose of a sick bay, including all the necessary furniture for the nurses, patients and staff dining rooms, sitting room etc for sever wards containing 35 beds. 39 12 06a

### **1940**

1947 05 28

Detective work by police officers of the Cambs County Constabulary led to the appearance at the Newmarket Petty Sessions of an ex-member of the Polish Army who was charged with breaking and entering a N.A.A.F.I. canteen at Chippenham. Amongst the evidence called was a statement given from the witness box by one of Scotland Yard's foremost finger-print experts. Defendant, who was described as neither a member of the Polish Army nor the Re-settlement Corps, was living at the North Camp, Chippenham. He was charged with stealing a steel safe containing £21.5s 3d in cash, 4 National health Insurance cards, 4 unemployment cards and 4 ration books to a total value of £41.5s 3d

1949 12 12

About 16 years ago a house was built on the main Newmarket-Norwich road. It was to accommodate the Chippenham constable and was put there because the Home Office said they wanted police houses to be on the main road. The house was two miles from any village, had no water laid on (but had a pump from its own well), had no electricity and a sewerage system that was "a little bit ancient". The constable who had been there a number of years had resigned and the Chief Constable knew that whoever he ordered into the house would at once give notice to terminate his employment. Now the house is to be sold.

## **1950**

1950 09 19

Chippenham police house, p4

1951 04 12

With some 16,000 acres of Cambridgeshire's wheat target of 50,000 acres still unsown and at the most only about a fortnight left to do the sowing, local farmers fear the possibility of a worst year than that of the 1947 floods. On many farms no spring sowing has yet been possible and work is anything from a month to six weeks behind. Mr C. L. Marr of Malton Farm, Meldreth reports that the heavy land there was waterlogged at the beginning of the week. Mr H.S. Kent of Chippenham summed up the situation in the word "terrible".

1952 05 27

Unless residents and firms in the Newmarket rural area apply economies in their use of water in the near future, there is likely to be a "desperate" shortage. The position is extremely acute owing to the continued lack of water. Every pumping station is working at full pressure but the output is still insufficient. A new regional water scheme which will supply main water from a new well at Chippenham is likely to be in operation at the end of the summer and a brand new reservoir has been built at the top of Newmarket's Warren Hill

1953 10 24

Not one village in Newmarket RDC area is now without a main water supply after the formal opening of Chippenham pumping station. It is the first rural authority in East Anglia to succeed in taking a piped water supply to every parish. Previously three villages had no piped water at all and on occasions water had to be taken to the towers in the high level by the fire brigade, at a cost of £100 a time. They are now able to supply farms and industrial undertakings for the first time. But the scheme was not cheap and the main pumps alone used 11s. 6d. worth of electric power every hour – 53 10 24

1954 06 30

Chippenham village school – closed because it was unsafe – has been scheduled for repairs since the beginning of the year but no workmen has yet been there. About 500 villagers are worried about their village hall, temporarily in use by the school, and the School Managers want to get out as it is quite inappropriate. The problem lay with the Ancient Monuments Division of the Ministry of Works; they preferred to have their own alterations put into operation as the school was an ancient building. "The Ministry ought to be brought to book by dynamite, or the school building will fall down before anything is done", said one councillor

1955 03 04

British Railways had considered closing the Cambridge-Mildenhall line because of its steady loss in revenue and uneconomic running costs. But now they hope that by the introduction of two-car diesel units and cheaper fares they can make the line a paying proposition. But people in Isleham had to walk to the station and in some instances this was three miles away; others had to go to Kennett station. They wanted convenience and had petitioned for a bus service. Messrs Murfet's would provide a bus into Cambridge for those who wished to shop or visit the cattle market; it would also serve Chippenham and Snailwell. 55 03 04

1955 09 09

A Chippenham girl told an inquest she was playing on the disused aerodrome at Snailwell when she went into a dugout and found a cardboard box tied with string. She opened it and saw it contained the partly decomposed body of a child. It had been there several years and it was now quite impossible to find the cause of death. 55 09 09

1955 09 21

Baby found in disused air raid shelter, Chippenham Park, Snailwell – 55 09 21

## **1960**

1960 02 19

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They include Chippenham – 60 02 19, 19a CIP

1960 12 30

Chippenham church tower renovation photo – 60 12 30c

1962 07 13

Badlingham Manor, a picturesque moated house at Chippenham, has retained its character while benefiting from extensive modernisation. Centrally heated by an oil-fired boiler, it has been fitted with practically every labour saving device and a modern kitchen. Many rooms have new wood-block floors but heavy beams in the entrance hall originally came from a ship while wrought iron fittings and decorations in the brick fireplaces date back to the 17th century. 62 07 13

1963 09 11

Chippenham Fen has been declared a National Nature Reserve. It is one of the few remaining great tracts of native fenland covered with peat varying from a few inches to several feet in depth and the presence of springs ensures a plentiful supply of water. It contains rare plants such as butterwort and bog pimpernel together with some very rare insects. Access to the 193 acre site is by permit only from the Nature Conservancy Council 63 09 11b

1963 12 20

St Ives Sand and Gravel Company started in 1937 and is now one of the leading producers of aggregates in the country. It works at about 18 pits including Earith, Fen Drayton, Wimblington, Chippenham and Mepal, in the river terrace gravels of the Ouse Valley. One pit at Meadow Lane St Ives was a football field two years ago and has now been dug out to a depth of about 20 feet and left flooded. Filling in is a problem for this must be done with clean material which must not pollute the water supply. On the other side of the road enormous shovels have created cliff-like sides streaked in brilliant orange and chrome. 63 12 20a

1965 04 30

Knight of St John 600-year-old cells under Chippenham school – photo- 65 04 30g

## **1970**

1976 03 19

Six primary schools in Cambridgeshire villages may have to close next year. Schools at Wood Ditton, Kirtling, Chippenham, Horseheath, Quy and Madingley have been shortlisted from a number of schools with less than 75 pupils which the county council feels may no longer be viable for educational or economic reasons. Other schools with few pupils include Ashley (30 pupils), Black Horse Drove (40), Castle Camps (55), Dullingham (30) and Stuntney (40)

1976 08 27

For more than 200 years anglers have been inspired by the legend of the big pike in the artificial lake at Chippenham Park Estate. Occasional sightings of the elusive fish have encouraged generations to pass the story on from father to son. But the drought may have dealt a terminal blow to the tale. Over the past few months the waters have shrunk as the lake's three source springs have gradually dried up and now only a sorry puddle remains of a lake once over half a mile long. This is the first year it has ever looked like drying up and now all its fish will have to be removed

1976 12 01

Parents with children at several small village schools have lost their fight to stop them from being closed when Cambridgeshire County Council backed closure because they are no longer a viable proposition. The schools are at Madingley, Ashley, Kirtling, Chippenham, Wood Ditton, Hemingford Abbots and Coldham near Wisbech. Some have fewer than 30 pupils and are housed in outdated buildings. Councillor Margaret Shaw said "Village schools are the heart of our county". But hard decisions must be taken in times of financial difficulty. The Council also agreed that more than 70 places it provides at the Perse and Kimbolton schools should in future be 'assisted; and not free

## **1980**

1982 08 27

George and Joyce Smalley are retiring from the village bakers at Chippenham after more than 40 years. The business has been in their family for nearly 100 years. The brick-built oven behind the shop was constructed for Mr Smalley's father. As well as bread and cakes cooked in the traditional way they have a thriving trade supplying rolls to cafes and pubs and passing lorry drivers often call in. But their shop and baking methods will be carried on under new owners and the name retained. 82 08 27a

1990 06 07

Post office van ambushed at Chippenham – 90 06 07